



NEWSLETTER



FSA Disaster Assistance Available

FSA would like to remind crop and livestock producers who have recently experienced severe damage from flooding, hail or other adverse weather conditions that FSA programs may be available to assist with recovery. FSA administers several programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program and the Emergency Loan (EM) Program. Fact sheets for these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets. We encourage all who have suffered a loss due to the recent severe weather conditions to contact the local FSA county office.

Please Report Damage

If you have conservation structures (pipelines, ditches, wells, springs, diversions, etc.), that are damaged due to flooding, please take dated pictures and provide them to the local FSA office along with a description or map indicating where the pictures were taken. This information may help support an Emergency Conservation Program request for cost-share assistance to restore structures in Lewis & Clark County.

If your crops, land or ag buildings are damaged by adverse weather, please report the damage to the local FSA office and/or the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners generally start the process for a Secretarial Disaster designation which assists producers in qualifying for assistance for crop losses (through the SURE program) and triggers the availability of FSA Emergency Loans, certain SBA programs, and certain IRS provisions.

If you have any livestock death losses, please document with dated pictures and report to the FSA office within 30 calendar days of the date the loss became apparent.

FSA's Prevented Planting Report Date Extended

Due to flood and excessive moisture conditions throughout Montana, the deadline for timely reporting prevented planting claims with FSA (not crop insurance) has been extended to coincide with the crop acreage reporting deadline of July 15. Prevented planted acreage claims filed by July 15 will be considered as timely filed. It is important that the FSA-576 be timely filed and approved for a possible 2011 crop disaster program (SURE) or for acreage history credit towards possibly building crop acreage base acres. Prevented planted acreage may also be eligible for ACRE payments for participants in the ACRE program. If a request for prevented planting is filed after July 15, 2011, it is considered late-filed and will require a minimum of \$46 to have an on-site inspection completed to determine that the natural disaster condition was evident. If the disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted is no longer apparent, the FSA-576 will be denied and no benefits will be applicable. If you have insured crops that were prevented from being planted, you may be required to provide proof that you filed for prevented planting credit with crop insurance. The FSA County Committee may also request that you provide receipts or invoices showing you had input costs (seed, chemical, fertilizer, etc.) involved for 2011 to establish your intent of planting.

Crop Acreage Reports Due By July 15

Crop acreage reports must be filed for farms in DCP or ACRE. All cropland on all farms must be reported to be eligible for marketing assistance loans and LDPs. Participants in CRP and NAP must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being requested. To be eligible for crop disaster benefits under SURE, all crops in all counties must be reported, including land that will be hayed or grazed. The deadline for submitting a timely filed acreage report is July 15, 2011. Producers are reminded that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Lewis & Clark County FSA

790 Colleen Street
Helena, MT 59601-9713
Telephone: (406) 449-5000

June 2011

County Committee

Carol Troy, Chair
Gary Dobler, Vice-Chair
John Baucus (Jr.), Member

FSA Office Personnel

Nina Fonk, Co. Exec. Director
Kathy Peters, Program Tech.
Lesley Egbert, Program Tech.
Kim Adams, Loan Manager



Agricultural Loans

Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; or livestock and machinery purchases call:
Kim Adams (406) 676-2811

Website:

www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Accommodations:

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any FSA programs should contact the County FSA Office or the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

Annual Notice of Payment Eligibility

USDA benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. FSA program benefits may not be provided to any producer until the payment eligibility determinations are made. A producer will remain ineligible until all required documents are provided. Payment Limitation/Eligibility determinations may be initiated by the FSA County Committee or requested by the producer. Once completed, documents are reviewed for the year submitted. A farm operating plan (form CCC-902) is not required to be filed annually if the farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the farm operating plan (CCC-902), and supporting documents are on file in the County Office. However, if any changes occur that could affect an "actively engaged in farming," "cash-rent tenant" or "average adjusted gross income" determination, producers must timely notify the County Office by filing revised farm operating plans and/or supporting documentation. Failure to do so may adversely affect the producer's payment eligibility. All payment eligibility forms (CCC-902) submitted by a producer are subject to spot check through the End-of-Year Review process. Farming operations selected for an End-of-Year Review will be required to submit documents to verify their contributions of capital, land, equipment, labor, and management. Please contact the County Office for questions concerning documents to be submitted. Producers determined to be "not actively engaged in farming" will be ineligible for Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) Payments. The limitation for the following programs is per "person" per fiscal year. Under the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE), direct payments are limited to \$40,000; and counter cyclical payments and ACRE payments are limited to \$65,000; Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments are limited to \$50,000; Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) payments are limited to \$100,000. SURE will pay up to \$100,000 annually including any benefits received for LIP, LFP and ELAP.

Cash-Rent Tenant

A cash-rent tenant rule applies to any producer that rents land from another producer for cash or a crop share guaranteed as the amount of the commodity to be paid in rent. The rule also applies to any producer who rents land for zero dollars or who farms the land in exchange for compensation other than cash, such as controlling weeds on land not owned, or barter arrangements. Any cash-rent tenant shall be ineligible to receive payment unless the cash-rent tenant makes a significant contribution of active personal labor to the farming operation; or a significant contribution of active personal management **and** a significant contribution of equipment. A cash-rent tenant must also meet all applicable requirements to be considered "actively engaged in farming."

Loan and LDP Programs

Marketing assistance loans provide producers interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without having to sell eligible commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. Marketing assistance loans are 9-month loans with the commodity pledged as collateral for the loan. Producers can settle their loan during the 9-month period by selling the commodity and repaying the principal plus accrued interest or by forfeiting the commodity to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). Under certain circumstances, market loan repayment provisions specify that producers may repay loans at less than principal plus accrued interest and other charges. Alternatively, a producer who is eligible to receive a marketing assistance loan may agree to forgo the loan and instead obtain a loan deficiency payment (LDP) on their crop. LDPs allow the producer to receive a payment when the alternative repayment rate posted for a commodity is below the loan rate for that commodity. For a commodity to be eligible for a marketing assistance loan or an LDP, the producer must have beneficial interest in the commodity and meet other eligibility requirements. A producer has beneficial interest in a commodity if he or she has title to and control of the commodity. Producers may obtain marketing assistance loans or receive LDPs on all or part of their eligible production anytime during the loan availability period. The loan availability period runs from when the commodity is normally harvested (or sheared for wool and mohair) until specified dates in the following year.

Submission of Applications via the Web

USDA provides customers with the option to electronically access, fill out, and print paper forms and transmit those forms and other documents to their local Service Center, as required by the Freedom to E-File Act. Customers may also obtain secure payment summary information. A secure website is offered. Logon to: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> to register for a Customer ID and password.

Nondiscrimination Statement/Complaint Process

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

2011 Managed Haying and Grazing of CRP

CRP participants may be able to begin haying and/or grazing on July 16, 2011, provided they complete all of the necessary 2011 paperwork at the County FSA Office and receive 2011 written approval from the FSA County Committee before starting haying or grazing. Failure to obtain written approval before starting managed haying or grazing of CRP could result in costly termination of the acres that are hayed or grazed. The Montana managed haying provisions allow for haying 1 in every 5 years and 50% of the acres must be set aside for wildlife. Grazing may be allowed 1 in every 3 years and 100% of the acres may be grazed. Producers cannot hay and graze the same acres. Producers will be assessed a 25% payment reduction for managed haying or grazing of CRP. The 2011 Summer-Fall Managed Grazing Period is July 16th through September 13th. The 2011 Managed Haying Period is July 16th through September 30th.

Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election

Beginning June 15th, nominations are being accepted for candidates for the Lewis & Clark County Committee. The county is divided into three local administrative areas (LAA). One LAA holds an election each year. This year, the LAA open in Lewis & Clark County is for the north area currently represented by Carol Troy. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the current LAA open for nominations. Duties of county committee members include administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office, informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs, and participating in county meetings. Nominations are due by August 1.

The Lewis & Clark County Committee would like to invite you to an open house to be held in the USDA conference room in Helena on July 28 from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. to discuss the role of the County Committee and the programs administered by FSA.

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Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

FSA-669A
(03-31-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
		5. COUNTY	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		6. LAA	
		7. STATE	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3B. DATE		8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		8B. DATE	
(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).			
9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE			
VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.			
<u>ETHNICITY</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<u>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</u> <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White		<u>GENDER</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:

- A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
- B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
- C. Willing to serve if elected.

ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.

ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.

ITEMS 3A & 3B The nominee must sign and date.

ITEMS 8A & 8B The nominator must sign and date. (If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)

ITEM 9 Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2011.

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

LEWIS & CLARK FSA
790 COLLEEN STREET
HELENA MT 59601-9713



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Bozeman, MT 59715
PERMIT #54

VISIT FSA ONLINE: Information on FSA programs, the 2011 Montana FSA Farmer & Rancher Program Handbook, forms, state news releases, upcoming deadline, state e-newsletters, county newsletters and more are available at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Selected Interest Rates - June 2011

Farm Operating - Direct	2.75%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency - Actual Loss	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility - 7-year	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility - 10-year	3.250%
Farm Storage Facility - 12-year	3.50%

FSA: Upcoming Important Dates to Remember:

June 15: County Committee Nomination Period Begins
July 4: USDA Service Centers Closed for Independence Day holiday
July 15: Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline
July 16: CRP Managed Haying and Grazing Available
July 29: SURE Sign-up Deadline for 2009 Crop Year
Aug. 1: County Committee Nomination Forms to FSA Office
Sept. 1: 2010 ACRE Production Reporting Deadline
Sept. 13: CRP Managed Grazing Period Ends
Sept. 30: CRP Managed Haying Period Ends
Nov. 4: County Committee Election Ballots mailed to eligible voters
Dec. 5: Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA office.
Jan. 2: Elected County Committee members and alternates take office
Continues: Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Signup

Receive Future Newsletters by E-mail

The Montana FSA has issued a new newsletter policy geared toward improving FSA newsletter delivery and efficiency to the individual farmers, ranchers and agriculture community. FSA newsletters will continue to be sent to active agriculture owners and operators. You can choose to receive your newsletter electronically by email. Each newsletter emailed and not printed and mailed saves the agency and taxpayer approximately \$0.39. To request the electronic newsletter be emailed to you, please complete the form and return to the local county FSA office.

Request Form for Receiving FSA Newsletters by E-mail

I wish to receive the local FSA newsletter via email. I will inform the Lewis & Clark County FSA Office if my e-mail address changes. **Your Individual Name:** _____

Entity Name (Corporation, LLC, LP, LLP, Partnership): _____

E-mail Address: _____